MARVEL COMICS
THE WEIRDEST ISSUE OF THE YEAR!
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
YEAH. IT'S SPIDEY.® WITH GIANT FROGS. YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
(AND THEY'RE NOT THE STRANGEST THING IN THIS ISSUE!)
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30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962-1992
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S WARNING:
THIS STORY IS FUNNY. ON PURPOSE. BEWARE.

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

ANOTHER FINE MESS!

MIDNIGHT-- ON A MANHATTAN ROOFTOP...*
HIYA, SPIDEY!
HIYA!
HIYA!
HIYA!
EUGENE--?!!
DON'T CALL ME THAT! YOU WANNA BLOW MY SECRET IDENTITY? CALL ME THE NAME THAT STRIKES TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF EVIL-DOERS EVERYWHERE--
THE FABULOUS FROGMAN!

*WHERE WE LEFT OUR HERO LAST ISSUE. --Danny.

PLUNK THOSE MAGIC TWANGERS AND PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR ABSURDITY BEYOND COMPARE (OR PERHAPS BEYOND BELIEF!) COURTESY OF: J.M. DEMATTEIS -- PERPETRATOR * SAL BUSCEMA -- UNINDICTED CO-CONSPIRATOR * RICK PARKER & BOB SHAREN -- ACCOMPLICES DANNY FINGEROTH, FALL GUY * TOM DEFALCO, REFUSES TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

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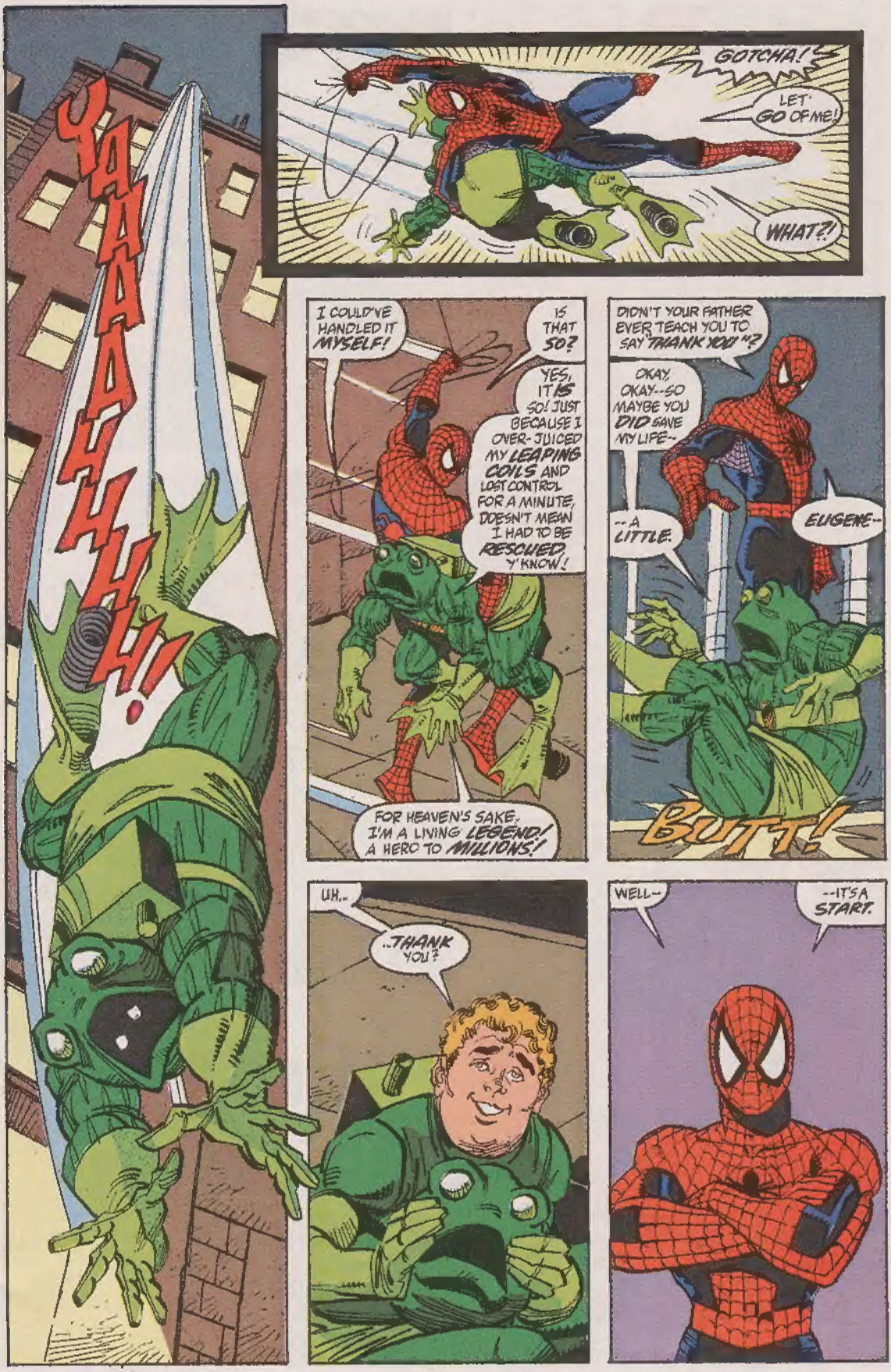
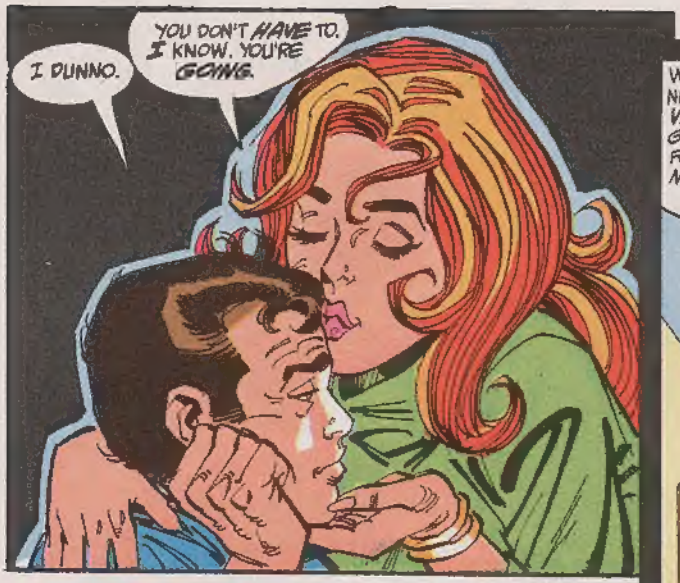
TELL ME I'M DREAMING--!
YEAH--HARD TO BELIEVE THIS MUCH GOOD LUCK! HERE I AM, HOME FROM COLLEGE FOR A WEEK'S VACATION... I DECIDE TO TAKE A SPIN IN THE OL' FROG-SUIT-- AND WHO DO I RUN INTO? MY FORMER PARTNER IN EXCITING ADVENTURES AND DEATH-DEFYING BATTLES WITH PERNICIOUS VILLAINS--
--YOU!
GOT ANY CASES YOU NEED HELP SOLVING, SPIDEY, OL' BUDDY, OL' PAL? ANY BAD-GUYS THAT NEED CAPTURING?
DOC OCTOPUS GETTING OUT OF LINE? ELECTRO GETTING YOU DOWN? THE GREEN GOBLIN BUSTING YOUR--
ZIP IT, EUGENE!
PARDON ME?
SHUT UP!
but--
NOT "BUTS"! NO NOTHING! JUST SHUT UP AND LISTEN!
YOU ARE NOT-- REPEAT: NOT!-- A SUPER HERO!
YOUR FATHER WAS A SMALL TIME SUPER-VILLAIN CALLED THE LEAP FROG! HE SAW THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS AND RETIRED--
--UNTIL YOU TOOK HIS OLD COSTUME OUT OF MOTHBALLS AND ALMOST GOT YOURSELF--AND ME-- KILLED IN SEVERAL RIDICULOUS ATTEMPTS AT SUPER-HEROING! *
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING--
* IT ALL STARTED BACK IN MARVEL TEAM-UP #121.-- Danny
READ MY LIPS, EUGENE: THIS IS NOT A GAME! PEOPLE GET HURT... PEOPLE GET KILLED.. DOING WHAT I DO! AND I AM NOT GOING TO LET YOU GO OUT AND--
HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
FAR AWAY FROM YOU!
GEEZ! IF I WAS LOOKING FOR A LECTURE, I WOULD'VE STAYED HOME AND LISTENED TO MY DAD!
SOME WAY TO GREET AN OLD FRIEND!
WELL, DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THE FABULOUS FROG-MAN--'CAUSE I AM--
-- OUT OF HERE!
BOING!!
Whoops
WOING
EUGENE-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO--
SPOINNNNG!
-- PROBLEM.


YAAAAHHH!
GOTCHA!
LET GO OF ME!
WHAT?!
I COULD'VE HANDLED IT MYSELF!
IS THAT SO?
YES, IT IS SO! JUST BECAUSE I OVER-JUICED MY LEAPING COILS AND LOST CONTROL FOR A MINUTE, DOESN'T MEAN I HAD TO BE RESCUED, Y'KNOW!
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, I'M A LIVING LEGEND! A HERO TO MILLIONS!
DIDN'T YOUR FATHER EVER TEACH YOU TO SAY "THANK YOU"?
OKAY, OKAY--SO MAYBE YOU DID SAVE MY LIFE--
--A LITTLE.
EUGENE--
BUTT!
UH...
..THANK YOU?
WELL--
--IT'S A START.

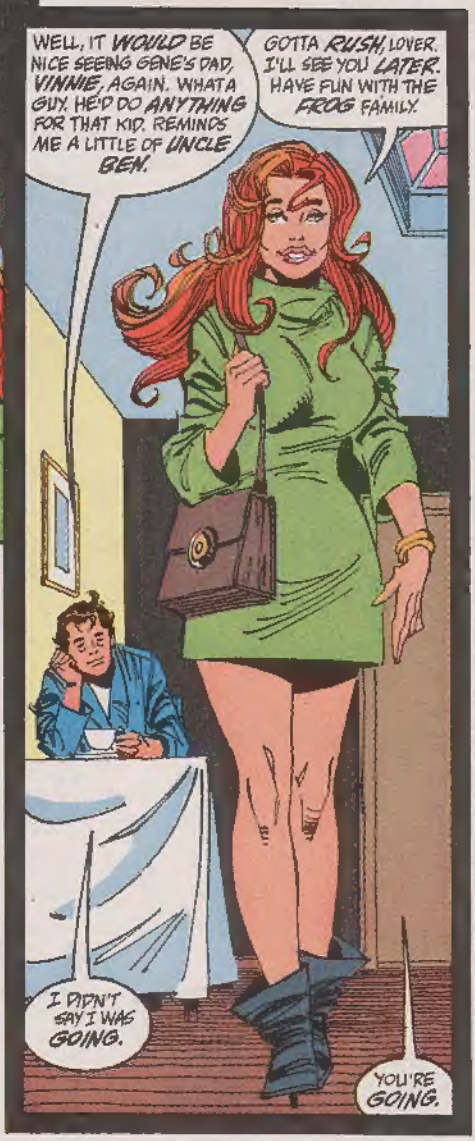
THE BRONX...
A JUNK-YARD! WHAT KINDA PLACE IS THIS FOR A SECRET MEETING?
I MAY NOT BE THE BRIGHTEST GUY IN THE WORLD--BUT I'D'A PICKED SOMEPLACE A LITTLE NICER--
--LIKE A "HOLIDAY INN"--OR A "SEVEN-ELEVEN"!
NOK NOK NOK
NOK NOK
WELL, THERE'S THE SECRET KNOCK--
--AND THERE'S THE SECRET PASSAGE-WAY!
I DON'T THINK I'M GONNA LIKE THIS TOO MUCH. AH, WELL--
-- DOWN WE GO!
HEY! WHADDAYA KNOW? THERE'RE AIR-JETS SLOWING MY FALL--JUST LIKE SHE SAID!
THIS IS KINDA--
WUMP
--FUN.
A SOMEWHAT GRACELESS ENTRANCE, MY LUMBERING LUMMOX--BUT PUNCTUAL, AT LEAST!
I ABHOR TARDINESS! ONE SHOULD NEVER BE LATE--FOR A VERY IMPORTANT DATE!
UH...YOU HER?
HER WHO?
THE LADY THAT CALLED ME! THE WHITE RABBIT!
I AM INDEED THE WHITE RABBIT: QUEEN OF CRIME! MISTRESS OF MAYHEM!
WELL... AH... I'M THE WALRUS.
GOO-GOO-GA-JOOB.
WELCOME, DEAR WALRUS--TO MY UNDERGROUND LAIR!
NICE PLACE. MUSTA COST YOU A FORTUNE TO DECORATE IT.
MONEY MEANS NOTHING TO ME! IT'S AD-VENTURE I CRAVE! DANGER! THRILLS!
I KINDA LIKE MONEY. DANGER I CAN DO WALRUS.
IF IT'S A FORTUNE YOU SEEK, MY THICK-THIGHED FRIEND--THEN IT'S A FORTUNE YOU'LL HAVE--

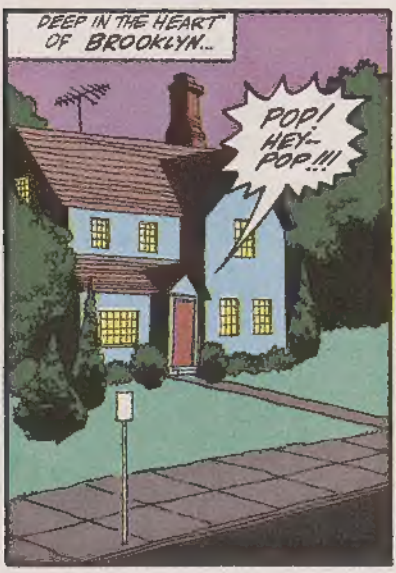
-- IF YOU PASS MY TEST!!
HEY!
FZZZAK!
SO-- MY RAZOR-TIPPED CARROTS HAVE NO EFFECT ON THAT BLUBBERY HIDE OF YOURS!
LET'S SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST A CARROT--
--OF A MORE EXPLOSIVE VARIETY!
WHOOM!
THAT'S
NOT
FUNNY!
SAY YOU'RE SORRY!
BUT I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT SORRY! I AM, IN FACT, DELIGHTED!
HUH?
YOU'VE PROVEN TO ME THAT YOUR EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH AND INVULNERABILITY MAKE YOU A WORTHY ALLY!
HUH?
I OFFER TO YOU, WALRUS, A CHANCE TO JOIN WITH ME IN A UNION OF EVIL! A LEAGUE OF VILLAINS!
HUH?
FROM THIS DAY FORTH, THE WORLD SHALL KNOW AND FEAR US AS--
--THE TERRIBLE TWO!
UM... THE TERRIBLE TWO WHAT?
PUT ME DOWN, NITWIT-- AND I'LL EXPLAIN!

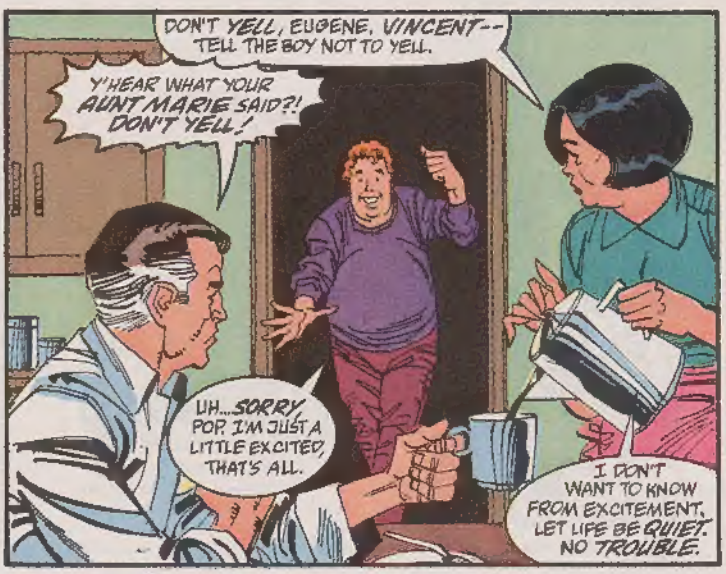
--EUGENE'S REALLY A GOOD KID, MARY JANE... HE MEANS WELL. BUT HE'S JUST... TROUBLE-PRONE.
KIND OF LIKE YOU WERE WHEN YOU WERE STARTING OUT IN THE SUPER HERO GAME?
YEAH. BUT I HAD THE PROPORTIONATE SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER TO HELP ME ALONG. ALL EUGENE'S GOT IS A PAIR OF ELECTRICALLY-POWERED LEAPING COILS-- AND A REALLY DUMB COSTUME.
YOU THINK THOSE BLUE AND RED LONGJOHNS OF YOURS ARE SO FASHIONABLE?
THAT'S NOT THE POINT. IT'S JUST THAT--
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY COSTUME?
SWEETHEART-- I'VE GOT TO BE AT THE STUDIO IN TWENTY MINUTES. I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS YOUR WARDROBE RIGHT NOW.
:SIGH: I SHOULDN'T HAVE YELLED AT HIM LIKE THAT. AND, EVEN AFTER I DID, HE ACTUALLY INVITED ME OUT TO HIS FAMILY'S PLACE IN BROOKLYN FOR DINNER. CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT?
SO-- WHY DON'T YOU GO?
PARDON ME?
LOOK--I'M GOING TO BE WORKING TILL MIDNIGHT. YOU'VE BEEN STRESSED AND ON THE VERGE OF BURNING OUT OVER THIS WHOLE MESS WITH HARRY AND VENOM AND--
THAT'S VERMIN.
WHATEVER. THE POINT IS, IT MIGHT BE NICE TO HAVE A QUIET DINNER WITH FRIENDS.
CAN'T. GOTTA KEEP SEARCHING FOR THE GOBLIN.
PETER-- LOOK AT YOU. YOU'VE GOT BAGS UNDER THE BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES. YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.
THANKS.
THE GREEN GOBLIN CAN WAIT. TAKE THE NIGHT OFF. GO BE WITH YOUR FRIENDS.


I DUNNO.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO. I KNOW. YOU'RE GOING.

MAYBE.


WELL, IT WOULD BE NICE SEEING GENE'S DAD, VINNIE, AGAIN. WHAT A GUY. HE'D DO ANYTHING FOR THAT KID. REMINDS ME A LITTLE OF UNCLE BEN.
GOTTA RUSH, LOVER. I'LL SEE YOU LATER. HAVE FUN WITH THE FROG FAMILY.
I DIDN'T SAY I WAS GOING.
YOU'RE GOING.

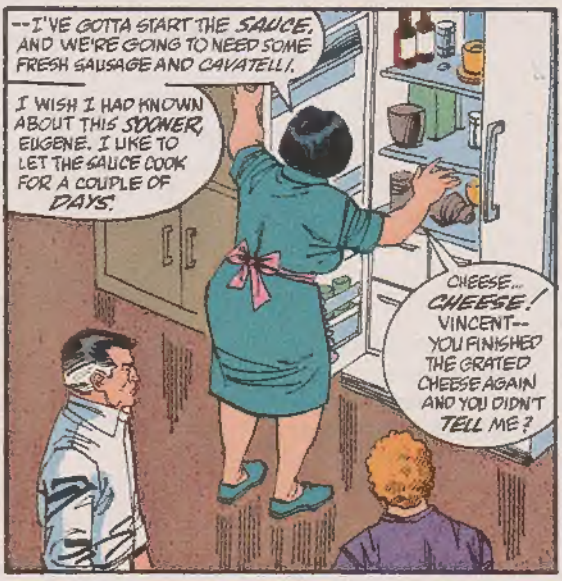

DEEP IN THE HEART OF BROOKLYN...
POP! HEY-- POP!!!


DON'T YELL, EUGENE, VINCENT-- TELL THE BOY NOT TO YELL.
Y'HEAR WHAT YOUR AUNT MARIE SAID?! DON'T YELL!
UH...SORRY POP. I'M JUST A LITTLE EXCITED, THAT'S ALL.
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW FROM EXCITEMENT, LET LIFE BE QUIET. NO TROUBLE.

BUT THIS IS GREAT NEWS, AUNT MARIE!
I DON'T LIKE NEWS. BETTER TO HAVE NO NEWS.
SO... WHAT IS IT?
SPIDER-MAN'S COMING FOR DINNER!!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?
LAST NIGHT, I WENT OUT FOR A SPIN IN THE FROG SUIT AND I RAN INTO SPIDEY... WE HAD A GREAT TIME, BOY WAS HE HAPPY T'SEE ME!--

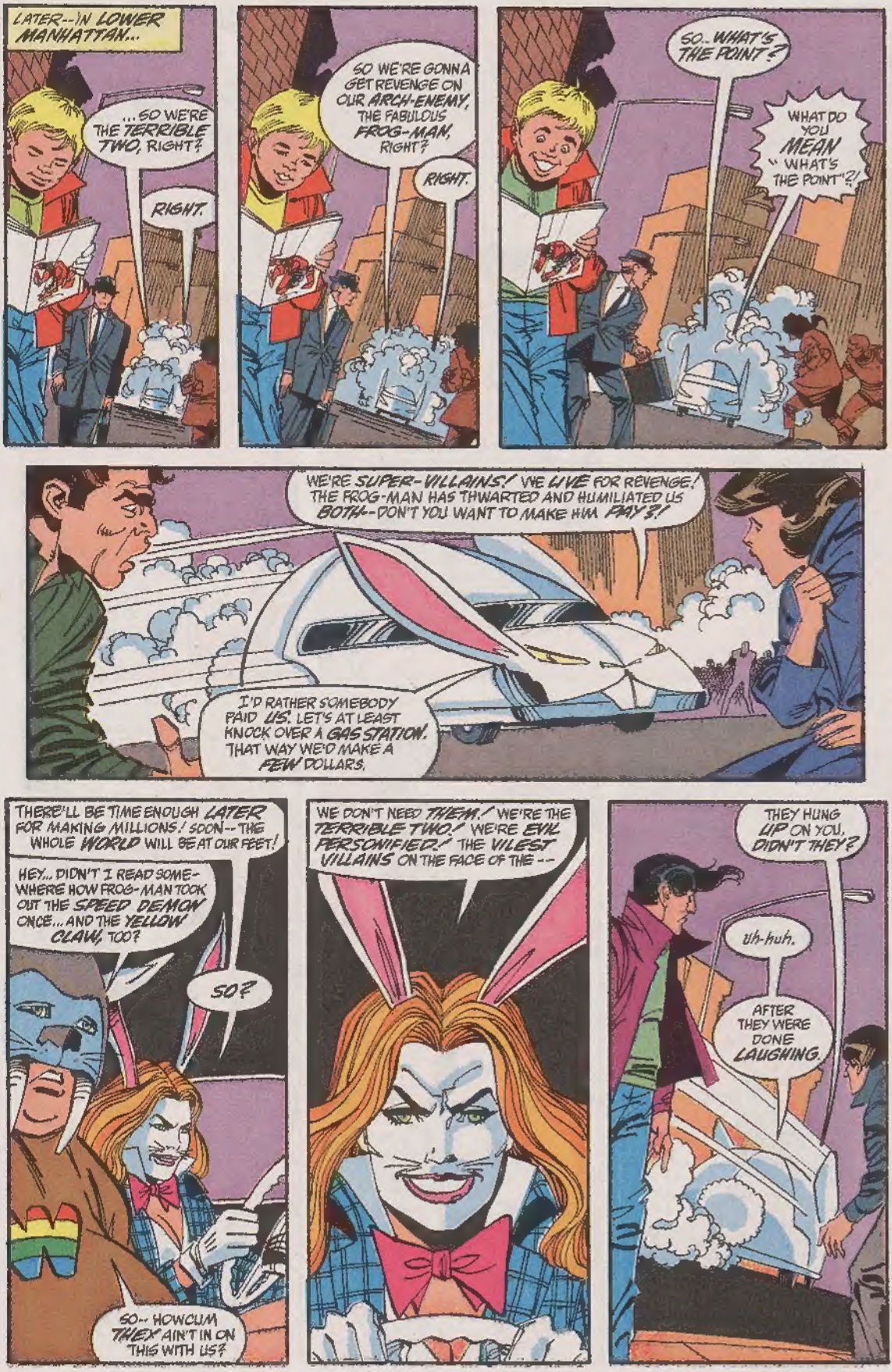
-- AND I ASKED HIM IF HE'D COME OVER FOR DINNER AND HE JUST CALLED AND SAID--
YOU PUT ON THE COSTUME?! YOU WENT OUT HOPPING AROUND THE CITY LIKE A NUT?! ARE YOU OUTTA YOUR MIND?! YOU WANNA GET YOURSELF KILLED?
I THOUGHT YOU GOT A LITTLE SENSE IN YOUR HEAD SINCE YOU STARTED COLLEGE! COPA DOSTA! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE T'TELL YOU THAT--

DON'T HOLLER AT THE BOY, VINCENT. YOU'RE JUST LIKE POPPA... ALWAYS LOSING YOUR TEMPER.
WHAT'S SO TERRIBLE IF HE INVITED A FRIEND OVER FOR DINNER? ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU DON'T LIKE COMPANY?
BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
THE POINT IS, WE HAVE A GUEST COMING--

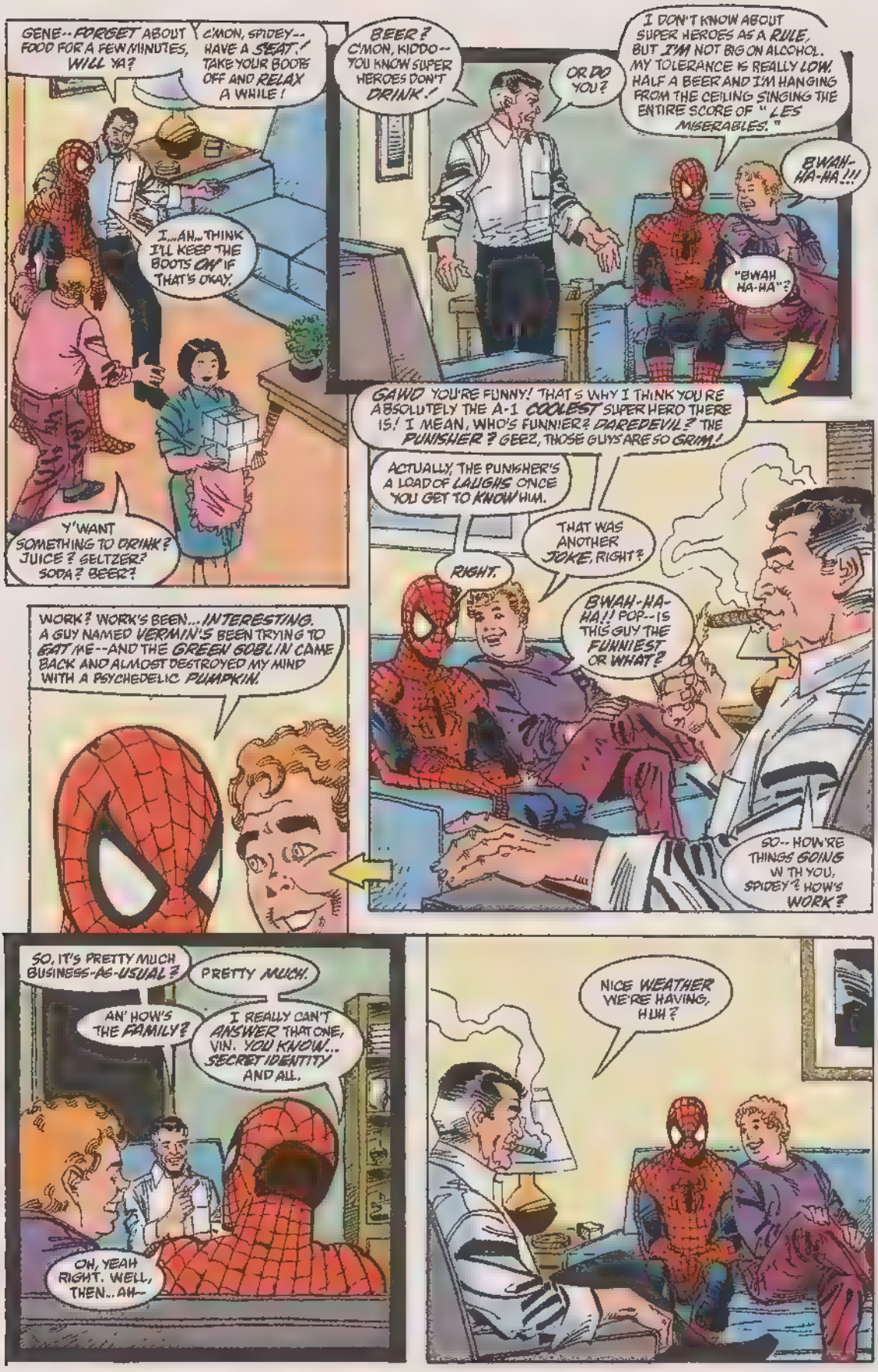

--I'VE GOTTA START THE SAUCE, AND WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME FRESH SAUSAGE AND CAVATELLI.
I WISH I HAD KNOWN ABOUT THIS SOONER, EUGENE. I LIKE TO LET THE SAUCE COOK FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.
CHEESE... CHEESE! VINCENT-- YOU FINISHED THE GRATED CHEESE AGAIN AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ME?

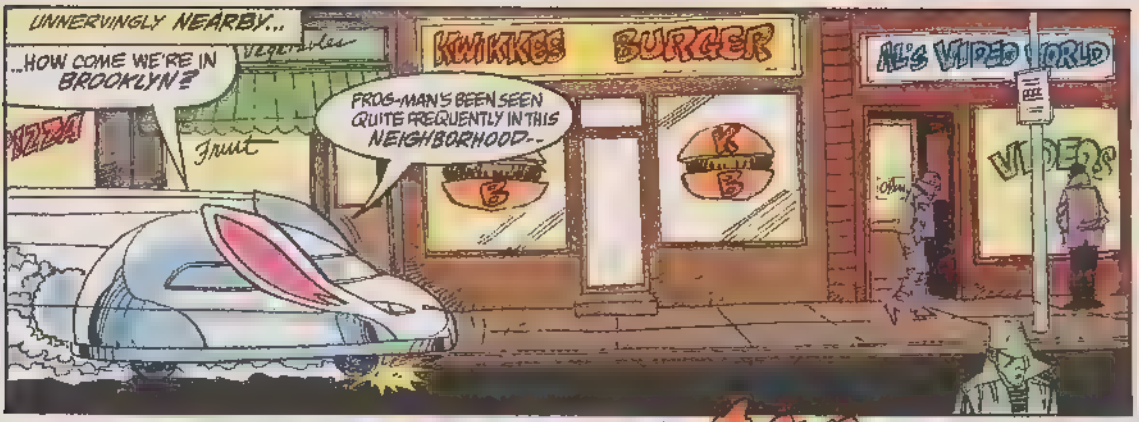
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KEEP THIS FAMILY FED, IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHEN YOU FINISH SOMETHING?
YOU'RE NOT REALLY MAD AT ME, ARE YA, POP?
I YELL 'CAUSE I WORRY, GENE. I YELL 'CAUSE I LOVE YOU.

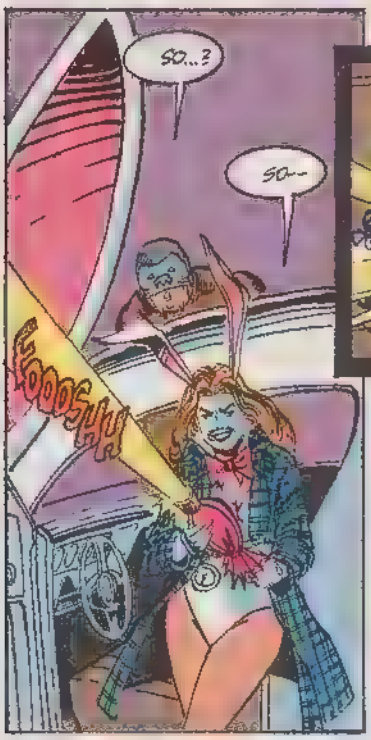
Y'THINK MAYBE YOU COULD JUST LOVE ME-- AND HOLD OFF ON THE YELLING A WHILE?
HEY... I CAN TRY.
AN' I'LL TRY NOT TO GIVE YOU ANY REASON T'YELL.
THINK WE CAN DO IT?
UH-UH. HOW 'BOUT YOU?
NOT A CHANCE, GENE. NOT A CHANCE.

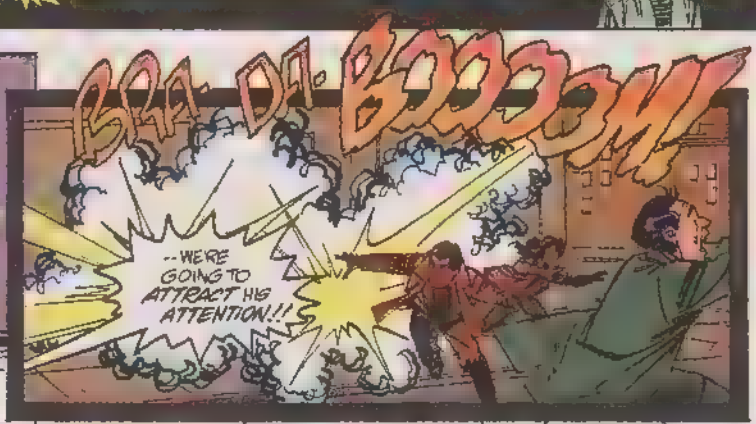

LATER--IN LOWER MANHATTAN...
...SO WE'RE THE TERRIBLE TWO, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
SO WE'RE GONNA GET REVENGE ON OUR ARCH-ENEMY, THE FABULOUS FROG-MAN, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
SO.. WHAT'S THE POINT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN " WHAT'S THE POINT"?!
WE'RE SUPER-VILLAINS! WE LIVE FOR REVENGE! THE FROG-MAN HAS THWARTED AND HUMILIATED US BOTH--DON'T YOU WANT TO MAKE HIM PAY?!
I'D RATHER SOMEBODY PAID US. LET'S AT LEAST KNOCK OVER A GAS STATION. THAT WAY WE'D MAKE A FEW DOLLARS.
THERE'LL BE TIME ENOUGH LATER FOR MAKING MILLIONS! SOON--THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE AT OUR FEET!
HEY.. DIDN'T I READ SOMEWHERE HOW FROG-MAN TOOK OUT THE SPEED DEMON ONCE... AND THE YELLOW CLAW, TOO?
SO?
SO-- HOWCUM THEX AIN'T IN ON THIS WITH US?
WE DON'T NEED THEM! WE'RE THE TERRIBLE TWO! WE'RE EVIL PERSONIFIED! THE VILEST VILLAINS ON THE FACE OF THE --
THEY HUNG UP ON YOU, DIDN'T THEY?
Uh-huh.
AFTER THEY WERE DONE LAUGHING.

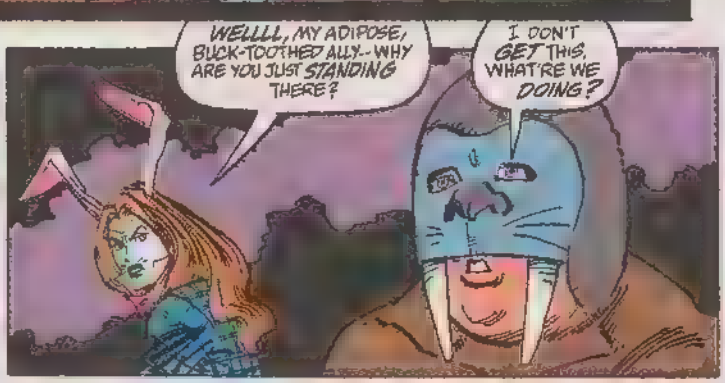
AND, BACK IN BROOKLYN..
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! DON'T LEAN ON THE--
--BELL.
OH, MY GOODNESS! IT--IT'S REALLY YOU!
HI. YOU MUST BE AUNT MARIE.
I'M NOT LATE, AM I? HAD A HARD TIME FINDING THE HOUSE.
Schwartz Bakery
Schwartz Bakery
LATE? NO. NO. YOU'RE JUST IN TIME. COME IN. COME IN.
VINNN-CENT! EUUU-GENE! YOUR FRIEND IS HERE!
Schwartz Bakery
Schwartz Bakery
CAN I TAKE YOUR COAT.. AH.. CAPE... AH..?
NEVER MIND
SPIDER-MAN!!
VINNIE.. HI!
YOU REALLY CAME!
I BROUGHT SOME COOKIES AND A SEVEN-LAYER CAKE. HOPE THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
ME... I'M DIABETIC-- BUT GENE'LL EAT ANYTHING.
YOU GOT ANY OF THOSE LONG COOKIES WITH THE CHOCOLATE ON ONE END AND ALL THE JELLY IN THE MIDDLE?

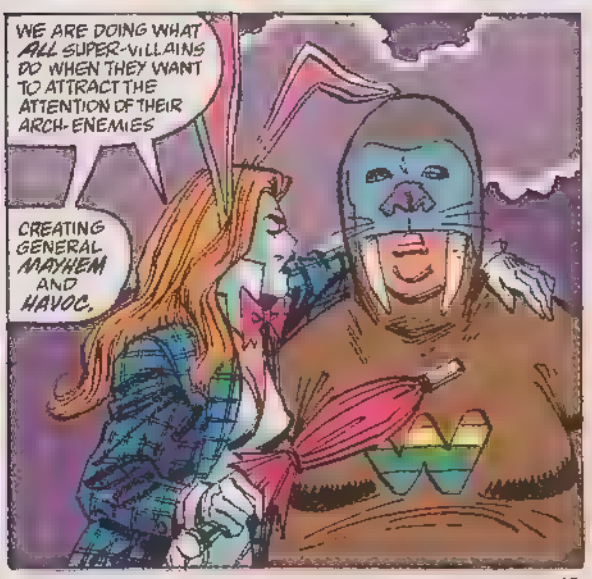

GENE--FORGET ABOUT FOOD FOR A FEW MINUTES, WILL YA?
C'MON, SPIDEY--HAVE A SEAT! TAKE YOUR BOOTS OFF AND RELAX A WHILE!
I...AH...THINK I'LL KEEP THE BOOTS ON IF THAT'S OKAY.
Y'WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK? JUICE? SELTZER? SODA? BEER?
BEER? C'MON, KIDDO--YOU KNOW SUPER HEROES DON'T DRINK!
OR DO YOU?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT SUPER HEROES AS A RULE, BUT I'M NOT BIG ON ALCOHOL. MY TOLERANCE IS REALLY LOW. HALF A BEER AND I'M HANGING FROM THE CEILING SINGING THE ENTIRE SCORE OF "LES MISERABLES."
BWAH-HA-HA!!!
"BWAH HA-HA"?
GAWD YOU'RE FUNNY! THAT'S WHY I THINK YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY THE A-1 COOLEST SUPER HERO THERE IS! I MEAN, WHO'S FUNNIER? DAREDEVIL? THE PUNISHER? GEEZ, THOSE GUYS ARE SO GRIM!
ACTUALLY, THE PUNISHER'S A LOAD OF LAUGHS ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW HIM.
THAT WAS ANOTHER JOKE, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
BWAH-HA-HA!! POP--IS THIS GUY THE FUNNIEST OR WHAT?
SO--HOW'RE THINGS GOING WITH YOU, SPIDEY? HOW'S WORK?
WORK? WORK'S BEEN...INTERESTING. A GUY NAMED VERMIN'S BEEN TRYING TO EAT ME--AND THE GREEN GOBLIN CAME BACK AND ALMOST DESTROYED MY MIND WITH A PSYCHEDELIC PUMPKIN.
SO, IT'S PRETTY MUCH BUSINESS-AS-USUAL?
PRETTY MUCH.
AN' HOW'S THE FAMILY?
I REALLY CAN'T ANSWER THAT ONE, VIN. YOU KNOW... SECRET IDENTITY AND ALL.
OH, YEAH RIGHT. WELL, THEN...AH--
NICE WEATHER WE'RE HAVING, HUH?


UNNERVINGLY NEARBY...
..HOW COME WE'RE IN BROOKLYN?
FROG-MAN'S BEEN SEEN QUITE FREQUENTLY IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD--
KWIKKEE BURGER
AL'S VIDEO WORLD
VIDEOS


SO...?
SO--
FOOOSHH


BA-DI-BOOOM!
--WE'RE GOING TO ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION!!!

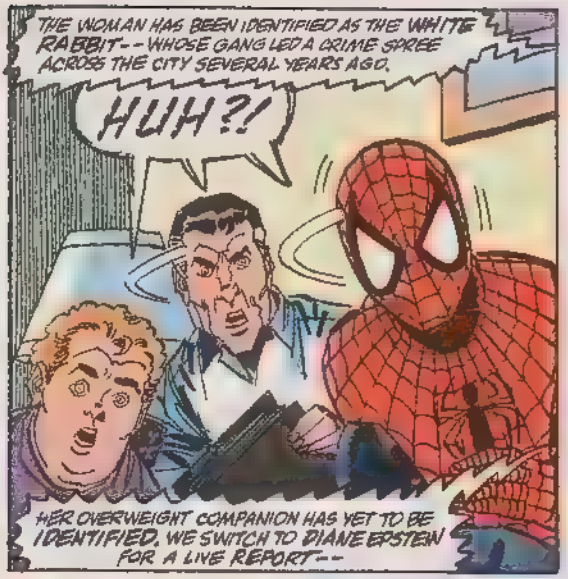

WELLLL, MY ADIPOSE, BUCK-TOOTHED ALLY-- WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE?
I DON'T GET THIS, WHAT'RE WE DOING?

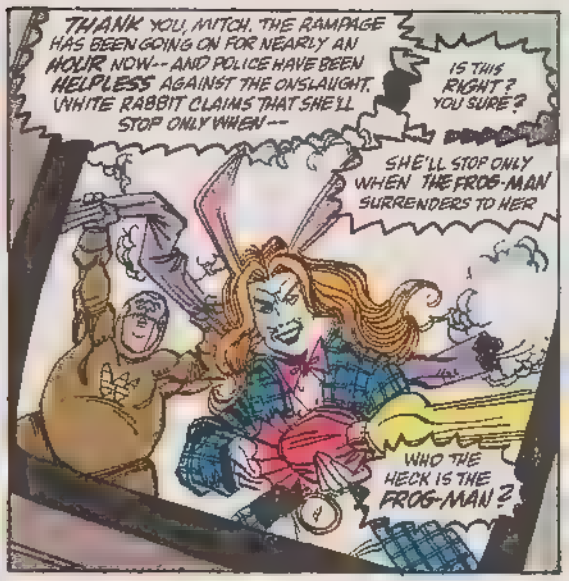

WE ARE DOING WHAT ALL SUPER-VILLAINS DO WHEN THEY WANT TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THEIR ARCH-ENEMIES
CREATING GENERAL MAYHEM AND HAVOC.

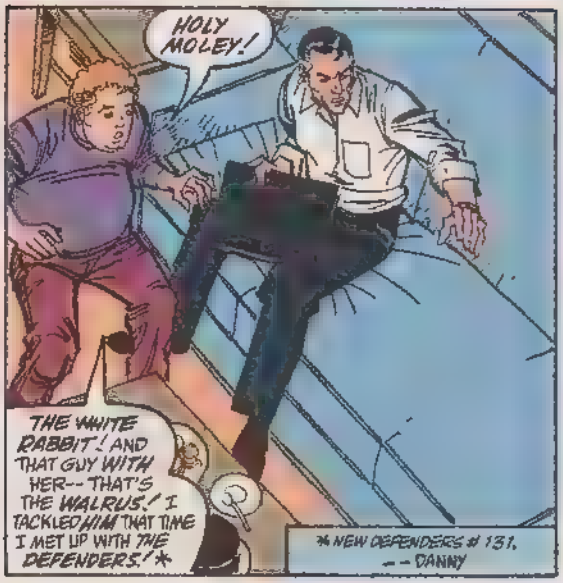
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF WE JUST ROBBED A BANK AND WENT TO ACAPULCO?

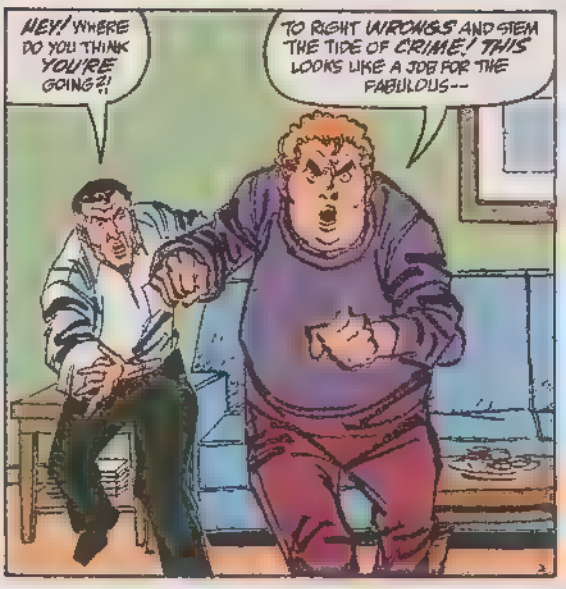
SIGH YOU ARE NEVER GOING TO GET ANYWHERE IN LIFE THINKING LIKE THAT.
NOW GET BUSY WITH THE MAYHEM!!!
OKAY--
RRIP
BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT
KRASSSHH
NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
I SWEAR TO YOU, BY THIS TIME TOMORROW, THE YELLOW CLAW'S GOING TO BE WAITING FOR ME TO RETURN HIS CALL!

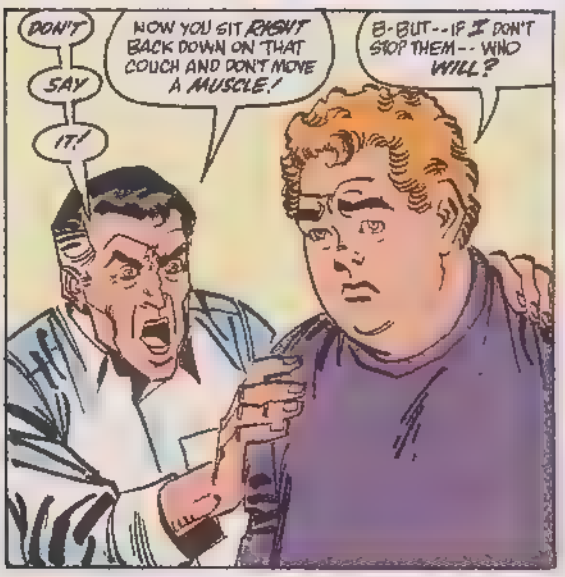
A SHORT TIME LATER...
ANOTHER PIECE OF CAKE, SPIDER-MAN?
NO, REALLY, I COULDN'T TAKE ANOTHER BITE.
AFTER ALL THAT PASTA, I THINK I MIGHT EXPLODE LIKE THAT GUY IN THE MONTY PYTHON MOVIE--
IT'S REALLY BEEN WONDERFUL HAVING YOU TONIGHT. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, WHEN I FIRST HEARD YOU WERE COMING I WAS A LITTLE... UH... YOU KNOW.
I WAS A LITTLE "YOU KNOW" MYSELF WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE, AUNT MARIE...
...BUT IT WAS NOTHING A FEW POUNDS OF CAVATELLI AND A CHARMING HOSTESS COULDN'T CURE.
"--ALL THE DWARF'S FAULT," GARDNER WAS HEARD TO SAY BEFORE HE--
SO WHAT? YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL WHEN YOU BLUSH
PLEASE... YOU'LL MAKE ME BLUSH.
≥MUNCH≤ THESE COOKIES ARE TERRIFIC.
GENE, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD-- SLOW DOWN AND LEAVE SOME FOR THE COMPANY!
HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT ANY MORE!
WHAT'VE YOU GOT THERE, VIN?
PICTURES O' GENE WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.
AW, C'MON, POP-- YOU'RE GONNA EMBARRASS ME!
LOOK AT THE LITTLE BUTTERBALL! WHAT A CUTIE!
AND THE BEAUTIFUL LADY IS--?
WAS, MY WIFE. ROSE.
WHAT A WOMAN. I'M SORRY YOU NEVER MET HER. S'BEEN YEARS SINCE SHE DIED-- AND I STILL MISS HER.
GENE WAS PRETTY YOUNG WHEN ROSE PASSED. HASN'T BEEN EASY FOR HIM, GROWING UP WITHOUT A MOTHER.
I. I CAN IMAGINE--
HEY-- I'VE DONE OKAY, POP. AFTER ALL, I'VE HAD YOU AND AUNT MARIE. CAN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN THAT.
SEE WHY I LOVE THIS KID? HEAD'S AS HARD AS CONCRETE-- BUT WHAT A HEART HE'S GOT.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE I KNOW.
--COSTUMED SUPER CRIMINALS RAMPAGING DOWN KINGS HIGHWAY IN BROOKLYN.

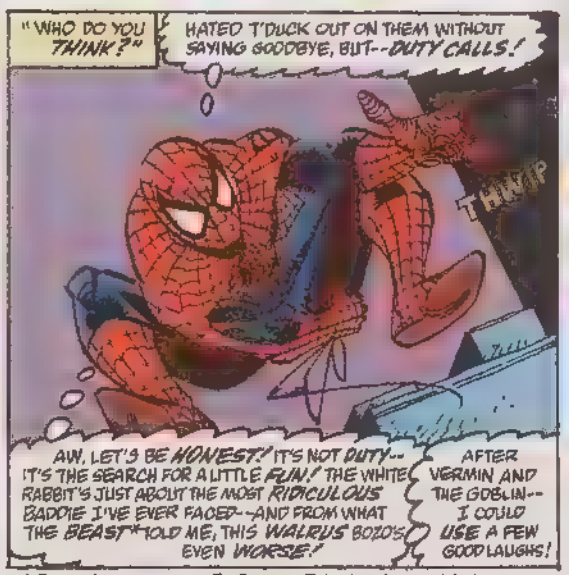

THE WOMAN HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE WHITE RABBIT--WHOSE GANG LED A CRIME SPREE ACROSS THE CITY SEVERAL YEARS AGO.
HUH?!
HER OVERWEIGHT COMPANION HAS YET TO BE IDENTIFIED. WE SWITCH TO DIANE EPSTEIN FOR A LIVE REPORT--


THANK YOU, MITCH. THE RAMPAGE HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR NEARLY AN HOUR NOW--AND POLICE HAVE BEEN HELPLESS AGAINST THE ONSLAUGHT. WHITE RABBIT CLAIMS THAT SHE'LL STOP ONLY WHEN--
IS THIS RIGHT? YOU SURE?
SHE'LL STOP ONLY WHEN THE FROG-MAN SURRENDERS TO HER
WHO THE HECK IS THE FROG-MAN?

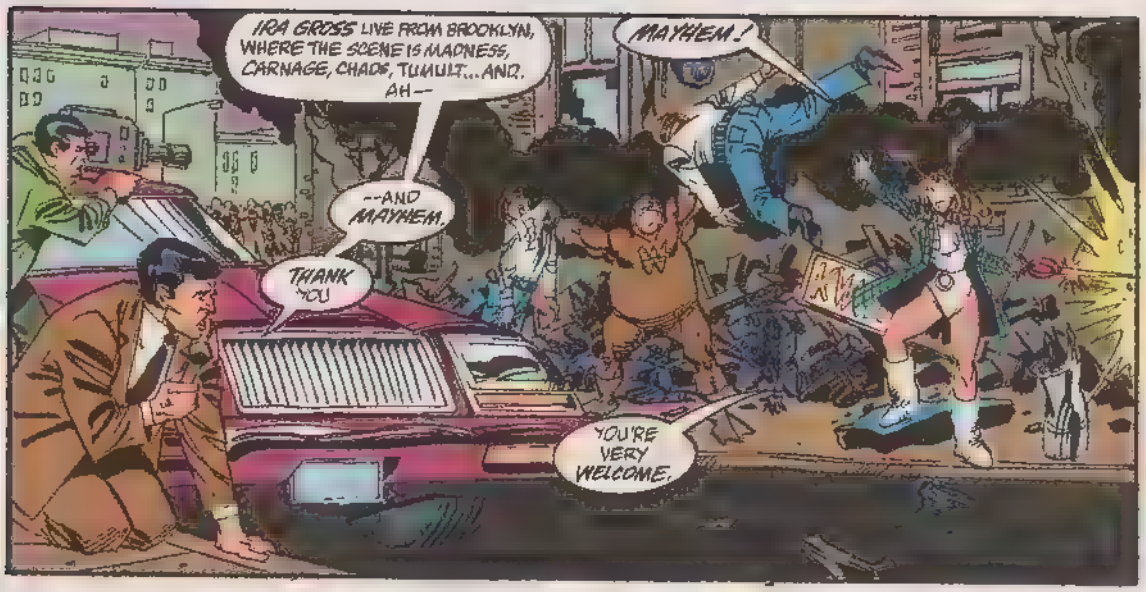

HOLY MOLEY!
THE WHITE RABBIT! AND THAT GUY WITH HER--THAT'S THE WALRUS! I TACKLED HIM THAT TIME I MET UP WITH THE DEFENDERS!*
* NEW DEFENDERS # 131. --DANNY



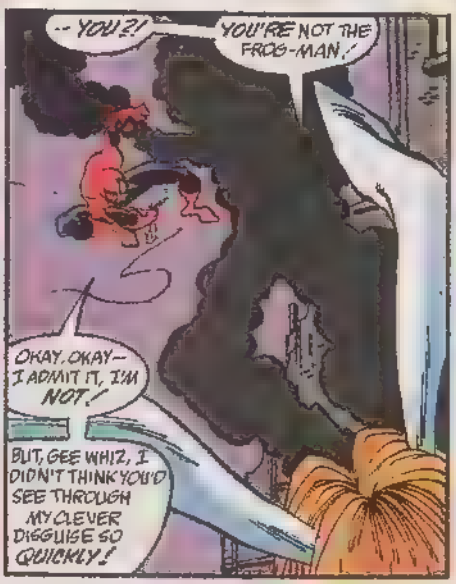


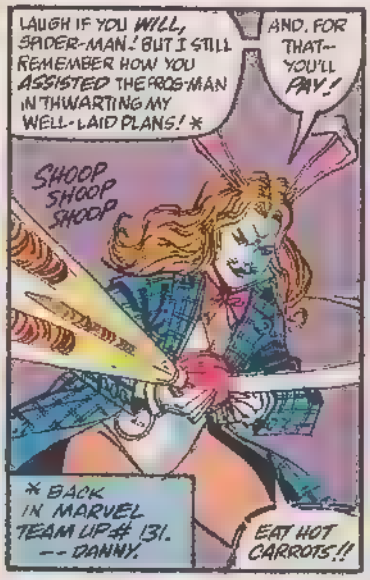

"WHO DO YOU THINK?"
HATED T'DUCK OUT ON THEM WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE, BUT--DUTY CALLS!
THWIP
AW, LET'S BE HONEST! IT'S NOT DUTY--IT'S THE SEARCH FOR A LITTLE FUN! THE WHITE RABBIT'S JUST ABOUT THE MOST RIDICULOUS BADDIE I'VE EVER FACED--AND FROM WHAT THE BEAST* TOLD ME, THIS WALRUS BOZO'S EVEN WORSE!
AFTER VERMIN AND THE GOBLIN--I COULD USE A FEW GOOD LAUGHS!

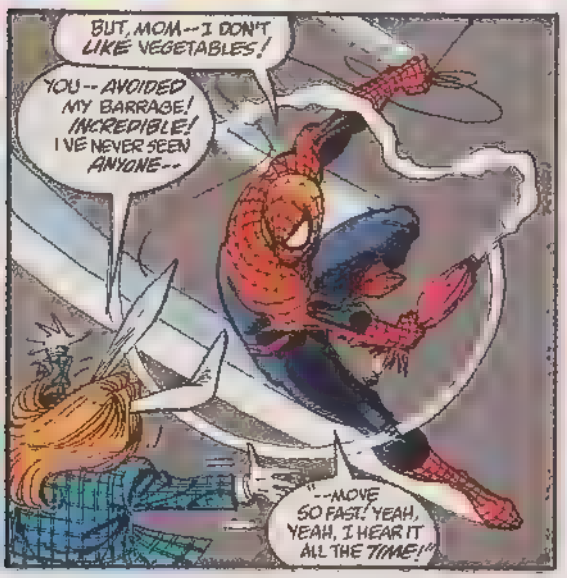
* PRESENT X-MAN, FORMER DEFENDER:--DANNY

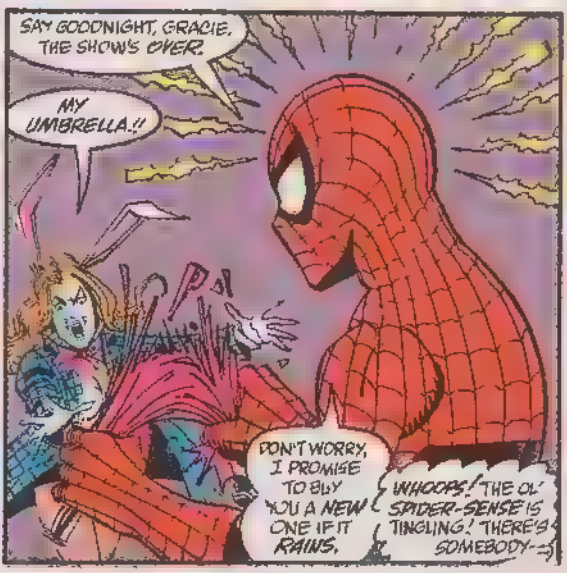

IRA GROSS LIVE FROM BROOKLYN, WHERE THE SCENE IS MADNESS, CARNAGE, CHAOS, TUMULT...AND, AH--
MAYHEM!
--AND MAYHEM.
THANK YOU
YOU'RE VERY WELCOME.

WHEREVER DID YOU GET THOSE LOVELY MANNERS? "SUPER-VILLAIN FINISHING SCHOOL"?
A CLEVER QUIP FROM ABOVE! AT LONG LAST-- IT MUST BE HIM! IT MUST BE--

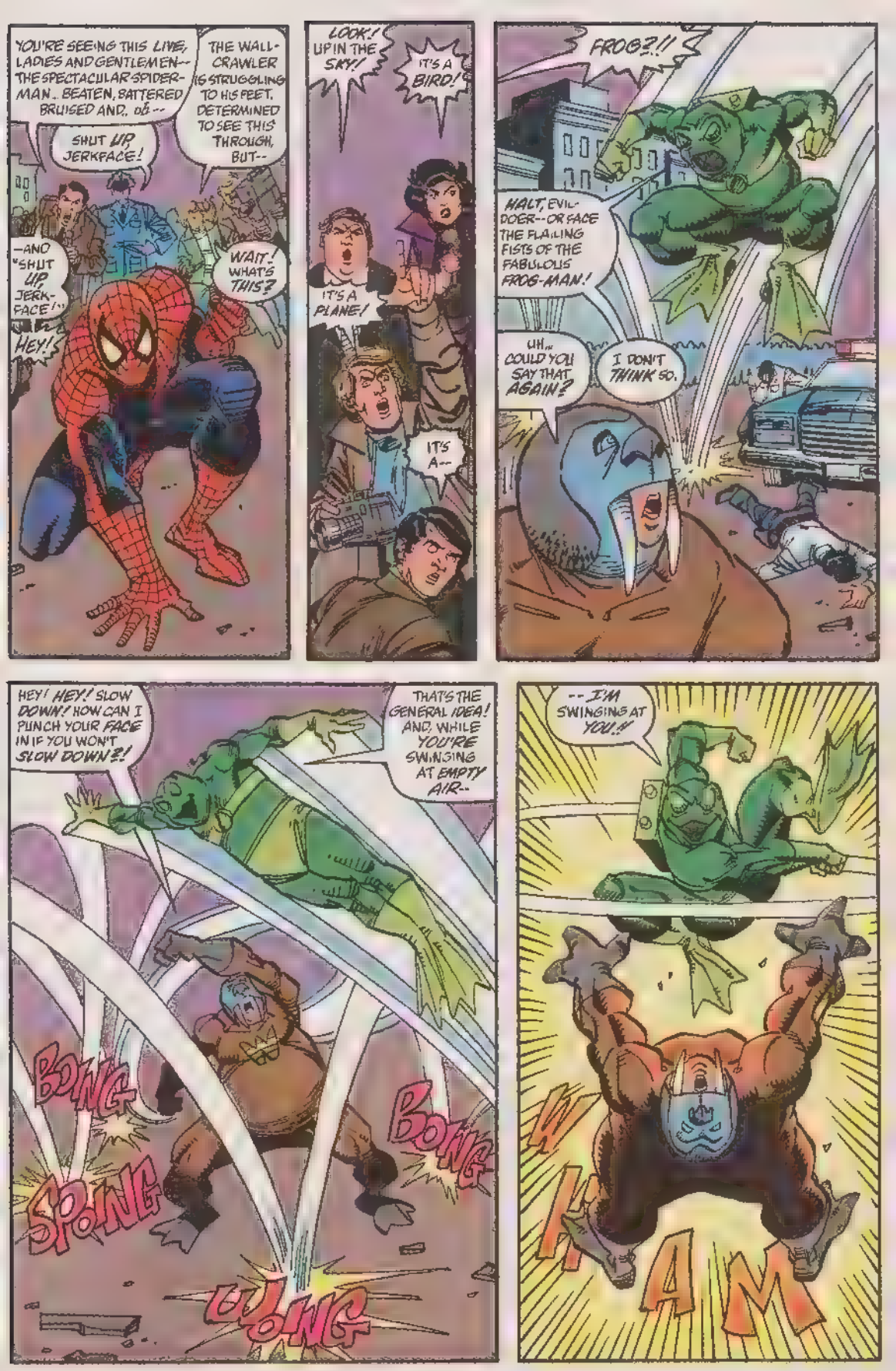

-- YOU?!
YOU'RE NOT THE FROG-MAN!
OKAY, OKAY-- I ADMIT IT, I'M NOT!
BUT, GEE WHIZ, I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D SEE THROUGH MY CLEVER DISGUISE SO QUICKLY!

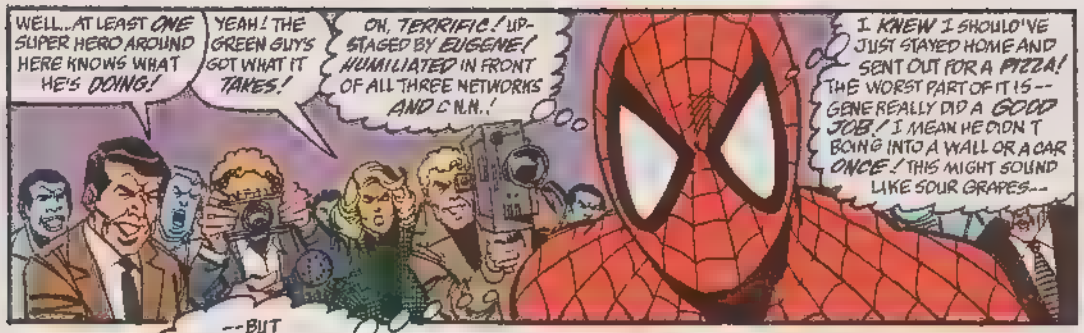

LAUGH IF YOU WILL, SPIDER-MAN! BUT I STILL REMEMBER HOW YOU ASSISTED THE FROG-MAN IN THWARTING MY WELL-LAID PLANS! *
AND, FOR THAT-- YOU'LL PAY!
SHOOP SHOOP SHOOP
* BACK IN MARVEL TEAM UP # 131. -- DANNY.
EAT HOT CARROTS!!

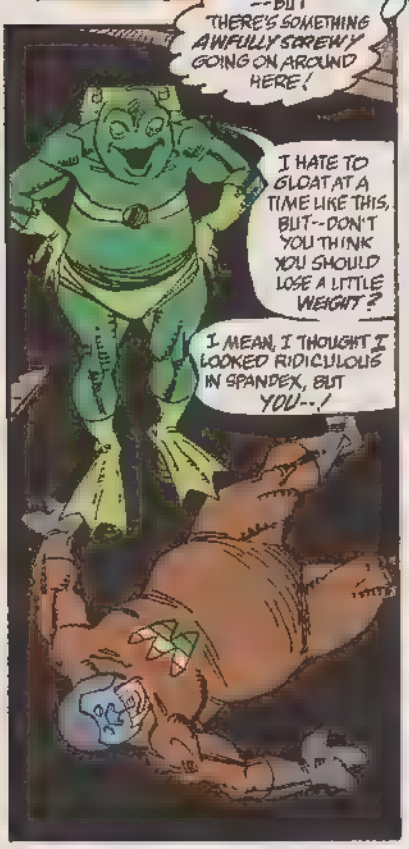

BUT, MOM--I DON'T LIKE VEGETABLES!
YOU-- AVOIDED MY BARRAGE! INCREDIBLE! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE--
--MOVE SO FAST! YEAH, YEAH, I HEAR IT ALL THE TIME!


SAY GOODNIGHT, GRACIE. THE SHOW'S OVER.
MY UMBRELLA!!
DON'T WORRY, I PROMISE TO BUY YOU A NEW ONE IF IT RAINS.
WHOOPS! THE OL' SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING! THERE'S SOMEBODY--

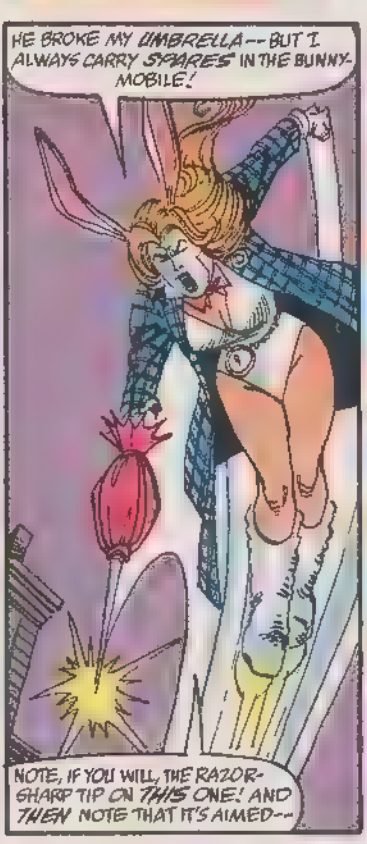
-- BEHIND ME!
SORRY, BIG-GUY-- BUT YOU HEARD WHAT THE LADY SAID! I'M A QUICK LITTLE DEVIL! CAN'T LAY A GLOVE ON ME!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
YEAH, WELL-- DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME, PAL! FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'VE GOT THE PROPORTIONATE SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A WALRUS!
"PROPORTIONATE SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A WALRUS"?
YOU'RE SERIOUS?
UH-HUH.
UH-HUH.
TEE
TEE HEE
TEE HEE HEE
HO HO HO HO HO
BWAH-HA-HA!!
DON'T LAUGH AT ME!
NICE WORK, SPIDER-MAN. REALLY NICE WORK.
SO I WAS A LITTLE DISTRACTED! SO SUE ME!
BUTT!

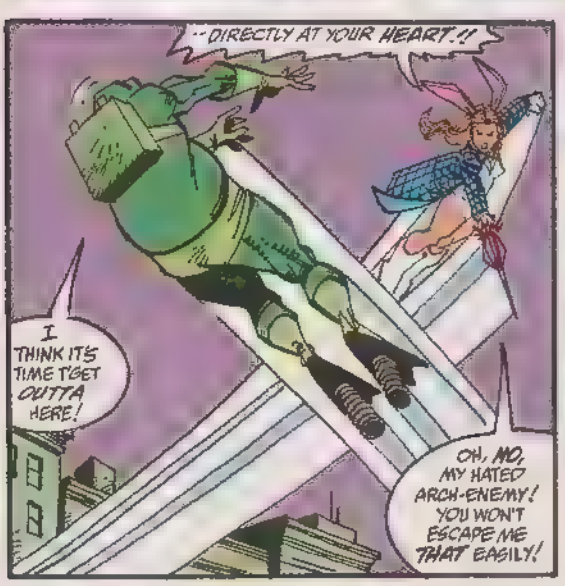

YOU'RE SEEING THIS LIVE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN.. BEATEN, BATTERED BRUISED AND,, oh--
THE WALL-CRAWLER IS STRUGGLING TO HIS FEET, DETERMINED TO SEE THIS THROUGH, BUT--
SHUT UP, JERKFACE!
--AND "SHUT UP, JERK-FACE!"
HEY!
WAIT! WHAT'S THIS?
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!
IT'S A BIRD!
IT'S A PLANE!
IT'S A--
FROG?!!
HALT, EVIL-DOER--OR FACE THE FLAILING FISTS OF THE FABULOUS FROG-MAN!
UH,, COULD YOU SAY THAT AGAIN?
I DON'T THINK SO.
HEY! HEY! SLOW DOWN! HOW CAN I PUNCH YOUR FACE IN IF YOU WON'T SLOW DOWN?!
THAT'S THE GENERAL IDEA! AND, WHILE YOU'RE SWINGING AT EMPTY AIR--
BONG
SPONG
BONG
BONG
--I'M SWINGING AT YOU!!
WHAM

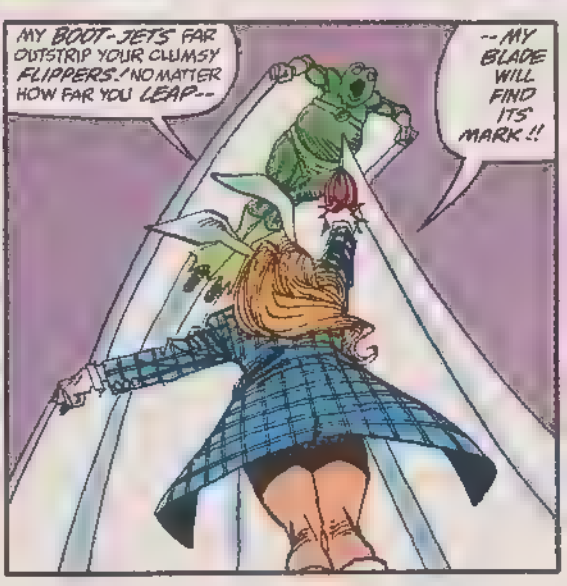

WELL...AT LEAST ONE SUPER HERO AROUND HERE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!
YEAH! THE GREEN GUY'S GOT WHAT IT TAKES!
OH, TERRIFIC! UP-STAGED BY EUGENE! HUMILIATED IN FRONT OF ALL THREE NETWORKS AND C.N.N.!
I KNEW I SHOULD'VE JUST STAYED HOME AND SENT OUT FOR A PIZZA! THE WORST PART OF IT IS -- GENE REALLY DID A GOOD JOB! I MEAN HE DIDN'T BOING INTO A WALL OR A CAR ONCE! THIS MIGHT SOUND LIKE SOUR GRAPES--


--BUT THERE'S SOMETHING AWFULLY SCREWY GOING ON AROUND HERE!
I HATE TO GLOAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS, BUT--DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD LOSE A LITTLE WEIGHT?
I MEAN, I THOUGHT I LOOKED RIDICULOUS IN SPANDEX, BUT YOU--!

MOCK MY PARTNER-IN-CRIME, WILL YOU?
HUH?
I THOUGHT SPIDER-MAN TOOK CARE OF YOU!


HE BROKE MY UMBRELLA -- BUT I ALWAYS CARRY SPARES IN THE BUNNY-MOBILE!
NOTE, IF YOU WILL, THE RAZOR-SHARP TIP ON THIS ONE! AND THEN NOTE THAT IT'S AIMED--


--DIRECTLY AT YOUR HEART!!
I THINK IT'S TIME T'GET OUTTA HERE!
OH, NO, MY HATED ARCH-ENEMY! YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME THAT EASILY!


MY BOOT-JETS FAR OUTSTRIP YOUR CLUMSY FLIPPERS! NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU LEAP--
--MY BLADE WILL FIND ITS MARK!!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi! Heroes,

There I was reading some old Soapboxes the other day (Hey, somebody's gotta do it!) and I came across a column from 1980 that I thought might be appropriate in this, the holiday season of brotherly love. So, without further (or even lesser) ado, here goes ..

Everyone yaps about young people being "different" nowadays. Forget it! Human nature doesn't change. What's happening is, the world has been wildly changing, producing new sets of rules each time you blink your eye. It's the social climate, the environment that's been changing, not you 'n me, Bunky!

Here's a f'rinstance: Say you've got two homes—a lonely cabin in the country and a small city apartment. You play your stereo full blast in your cabin, but who cares? There's no one around to hear it, so you're not disturbing anyone. But play it just as loud in your small apartment with the paper-thin walls and your neighbors wanna clobber you. You haven't changed. You're the same yo-yo in both places. But the conditions are different!

Fact is, young people are the same as ever, the same noisy, scroungy, mangy, wonderful crazies they've always been — and adults are still the same grouchy, grunchy, goopy, hard-pressed and harassed heroes they've always been — and which you'll soon become. Nothing changes but the labels. Which leads us to the main point I wanna make —

None of us is all that different from each other. We all want essentially the same things out of life — a measure of security, some fun, some romance, friendship and the respect of our contemporaries. That goes for everyone, Italians, Russians, Arabs, Asians, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Blacks, Browns, Whites and green-skinned Hulks. So why don't we all get with it and stop putting the "other" guys down? Just look in the mirror, mister — that other guy is you! Seasons Greetings!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

We'll, it's that time of year again, you know, jingle bells, and mistletoe and ho-ho-ho. It's the season for giving. (Last month, we had thanksgiving. This month we have giving. Shouldn't that be the other way around?)

Our uptown friends were apparently very much in the spirit of giving this year—they gave us two of their employees—kind of. As we looked under the Marvel editorial tree this year, we were thrilled to find, wrapped in decorative packages with shiny red ribbons, former DC people "Jolly" **Joey Cavalieri** and "Merry" **Mindy Newell**. (It's not the Hot Wheels Race Track we had asked for, but there's always next year.) Joey and Mindy have joined us as an editor and an assistant editor, respectively and we're as happy as eight maids a' milking to have them aboard. Joey is now editor of MOON KNIGHT as well as the new ultra-top secret 2093 line. Mindy will be assisting **Bob Budiansky** over in Special Projects. Welcome aboard, Joey and Mindy! Now stop tacking up the mistletoe all over the joint and get to work.

All seriousness aside, we do have a lot of decorating to do here around the Marvel offices. We've even gone so far as to rearrange the ornaments at the top of the Marvel editorial tree this year, what with some recent promotions. **Mark** "Melchior" **Gruenwald**, **Carl** "Caspar" **Potts**, and **Bob** "Balthazar" **Budiansky** (or, the three Wise Men of Marvel, as they're collectively known), are now all Executive Editors (with Mark being Senior Executive Editor, of course!), each of whom has his own stable of editors to oversee. **Tom** "Scrooge" **DeFalco** is still our inestimable Editor in Chief, meaning he gets to put the cigar on the top of the tree. (We know, it's supposed to be a star, but Tom *is* the boss ... !)

Of course, once you have your own tree, you'll need gifts to put beneath it. As you're waiting in endless lines in department stores this year, or futilely searching for a parking space, you may be pondering gift ideas. What can you stuff in your stocking this year? Well, we can't buy your presents for you, but we can point out that this year, for the first time ever, it is now possible to own stock in Marvel. It's true, the Marvel Entertainment Group has gone public, and now it's possible to become a shareholder. Just think of the punniness were one to put stock in a stocking! Even the Grinch could appreciate that!

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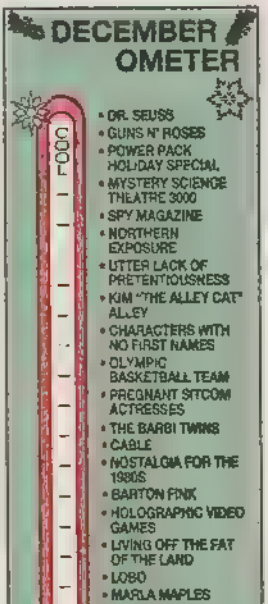


Okay, so maybe stock is not exactly your cup of eggnog. Perhaps you'd like something a little more fun. Then we can't think of anything better than a membership in WAMI, the official Marvel fan club. WAMI stands for Wild Agents of Marvel, and is not in any way affiliated with pop singer George Michael. The club membership includes a wreath-full of goodies, as well as a quarterly newsletter. It's even better than a Perry Como holiday special!

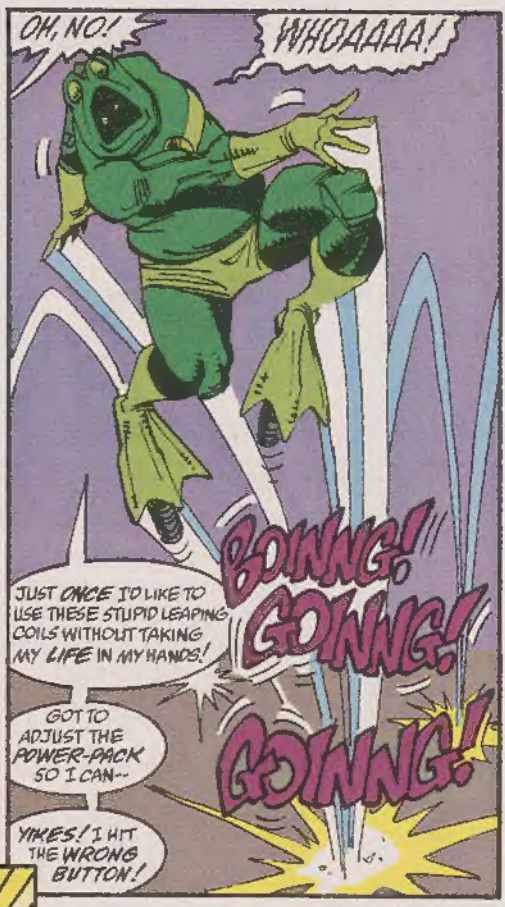
So, now, as you sit around the open fire (wishing you had a fireplace), sipping hot cocoa in the dark, praying the carolers outside won't know you're home, you may wish to relax with a good magazine. How about that copy of *Entertainment Weekly*, with the colorful write-up on X-MEN #1, chock full o' photos of **Jim** "Rudolph" **Lee**, **John** "Frosty" **Byrne**, and **Chris** "Santa" **Claremont**. And then there's that chestnut-roasting write-up **Todd** "Tiny Tim" **McFarlane** received in *People* Magazine for his work on the SPIDER-MAN book. It occurs to us that the media have blessed the comics biz of late with the gift of coverage.

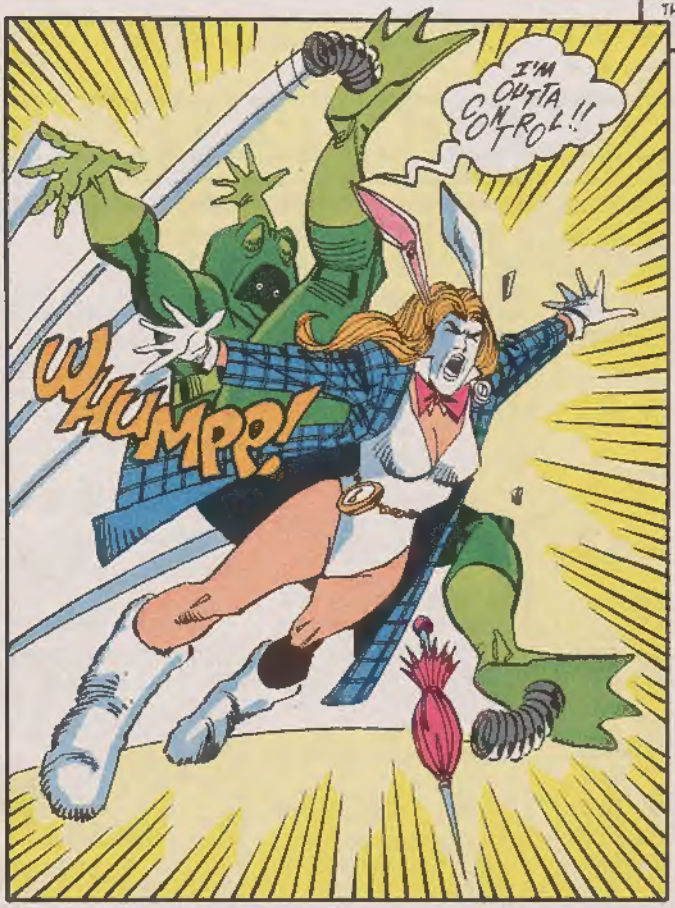
With this being the season of giving, we got to thinking what we, the Marvel Entertainment Group, could do for you, our loyal fans. Then it occurred to us: we could increase the entertainment value of all our comics by an inflationary 100%! That's a deal that's sure to make your sleighbells ring-a-ling. Unfortunately, we've also had to raise the prices of our standard newsstand comics to $1.25. What's that, you say—only a 25% price increase with a 100% increase in quality? How can they do it, you ask? It's easy. We've all taken an oath to care even more than we usually do. If you still don't know what to make of the situation, think of it as getting a visit from the Ghost of Price Increases Past.

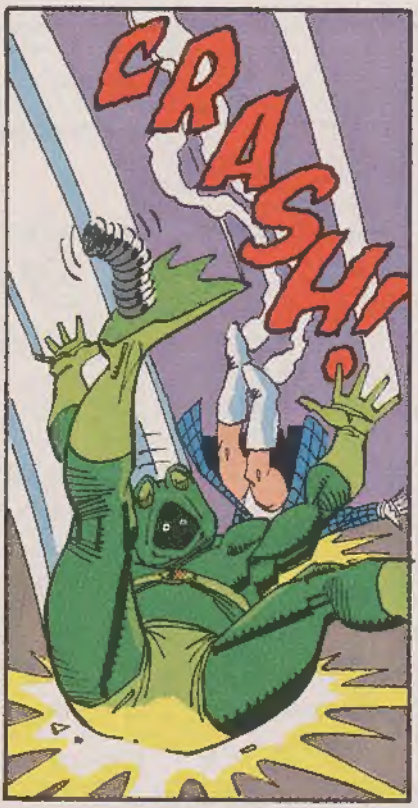
Brrrr! The snow does seem to be piling up outside, and it seems to be getting a little deep in here, too. So it's time once again for us to cook up a batch of cut-out cookies, snuggle up with our loved ones, and listen to dogs barking out our favorite Yuletide carols. What more could any merry Marvelold ask for? Peace, people!

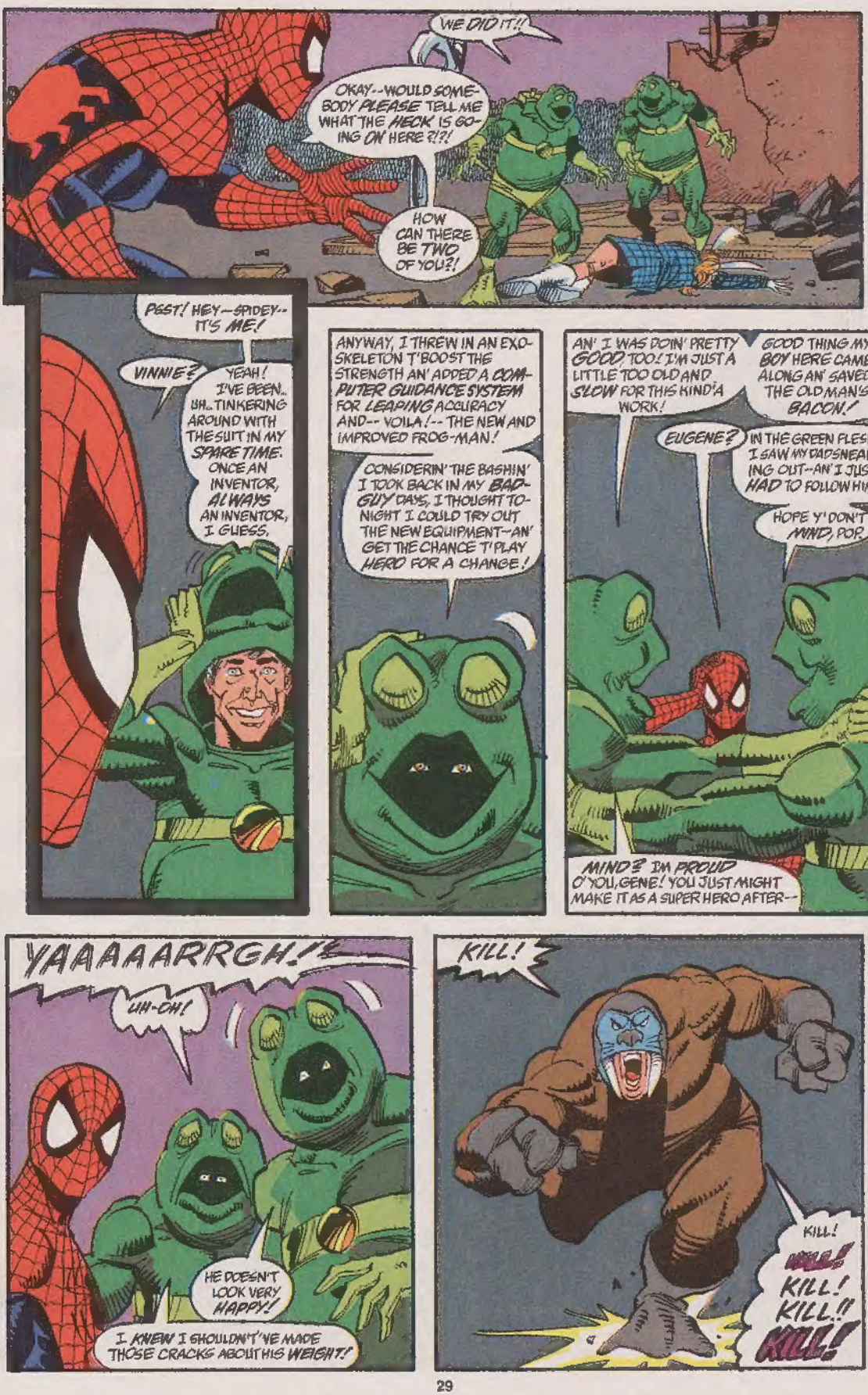
OH, THE HORROR! THE HORROR! FROG-MAN IS ABOUT TO BE SKEWERED! HIS HEART RIPPED OUT OF HIS CHEST!
AND, I'M HAPPY TO SAY, WE'VE GOT IT FOR YOU... LIVE!
DON'T COUNT YOUR RATINGS YET, GERALDO-- YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD
SPIDER-MAN'S GOT THIS SITUATION WELL IN--

HEY...
HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE!
"ANOTHER ONE"? ANOTHER WHAT?
OH, NO.

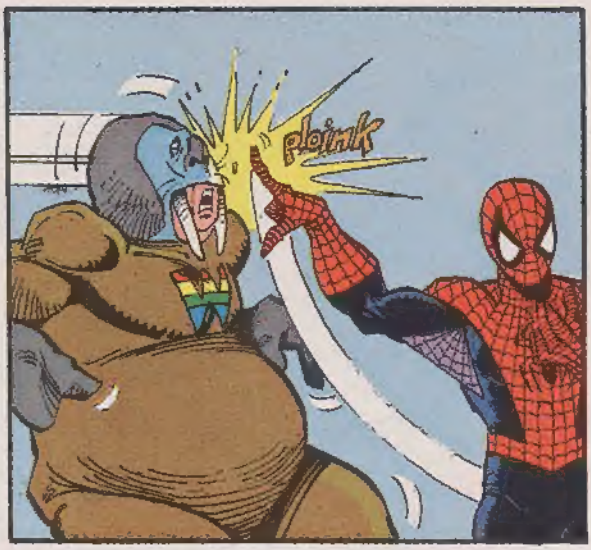

OH, NO!
WHOAAAA!
JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO USE THESE STUPID LEAPING COILS WITHOUT TAKING MY LIFE IN MY HANDS!
BOING! GOING! GOING!
GOT TO ADJUST THE POWER-PACK SO I CAN--
YIKES! I HIT THE WRONG BUTTON!


I'M OUTTA CONTROL!!
WHUMPP!

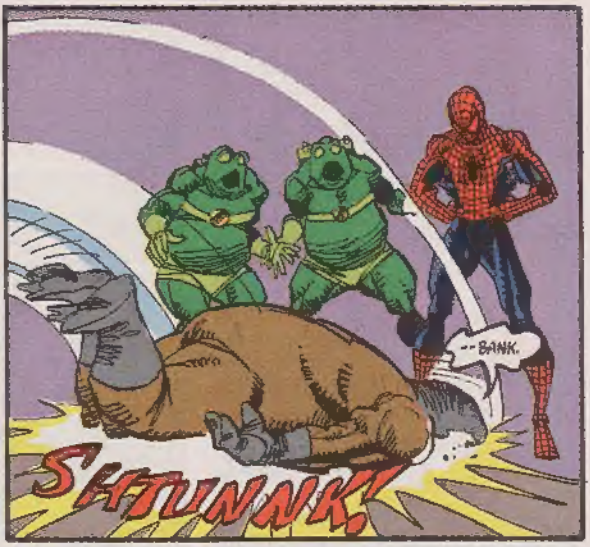

CRASH!


WE DID IT!!
OKAY--WOULD SOMEBODY PLEASE TELL ME WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE?!?!
HOW CAN THERE BE TWO OF YOU?!
PSST! HEY--SPIDEY--IT'S ME!
VINNIE?
YEAH! I'VE BEEN.. UH.. TINKERING AROUND WITH THE SUIT IN MY SPARE TIME. ONCE AN INVENTOR, ALWAYS AN INVENTOR, I GUESS.
ANYWAY, I THREW IN AN EXO-SKELETON T'BOOST THE STRENGTH AN' ADDED A COMPUTER GUIDANCE SYSTEM FOR LEAPING ACCURACY AND-- VOILA!-- THE NEW AND IMPROVED FROG-MAN!
CONSIDERIN' THE BASHIN' I TOOK BACK IN MY BAD-GUY DAYS, I THOUGHT TONIGHT I COULD TRY OUT THE NEW EQUIPMENT--AN' GET THE CHANCE T'PLAY HERO FOR A CHANGE!
AN' I WAS DOIN' PRETTY GOOD, TOO! I'M JUST A LITTLE TOO OLD AND SLOW FOR THIS KIND'A WORK!
GOOD THING MY BOY HERE CAME ALONG AN' SAVED THE OLD MAN'S BACON!
EUGENE?
IN THE GREEN FLESH, I SAW MY DADSNEAKING OUT--AN' I JUST HAD TO FOLLOW HIM.
HOPE Y'DON'T MIND, POP.
MIND? I'M PROUD O'YOU, GENE! YOU JUST MIGHT MAKE IT AS A SUPER HERO AFTER--
YAAAAARRGH!
UH-OH!
HE DOESN'T LOOK VERY HAPPY!
I KNEW I SHOULDN'T'VE MADE THOSE CRACKS ABOUT HIS WEIGHT!
KILL!
KILL!
KILL!
KILL!!
KILL!

GENTLEMEN, PLEASE--
--ALLOW ME.
THIS HAS BEEN EMBARRASSING ENOUGH AS IT IS.


plonk

WHY-OH- WHY COULDN'T WE HAVE JUST ROBBED A--


--BANK.
SHTUNNK!

WOW! THAT WAS INCREDIBLE! ONE FINGER-- AN' HE'S OUT COLD!
I... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT! NO WONDER YOU'RE MY HERO!
FROGGIES... PLEASE... DON'T GUSH LIKE THAT. YOU'LL SWELL MY HEAD.
OH. OKAY.
YEAH. WOULDN'T WANNA DO THAT.
ON SECOND THOUGHT, THE WAY MY LIFE'S BEEN GOING LATELY, I COULD USE A LITTLE HEAD-SWELLING. SO BE MY GUESTS, BOYS--

--GUSH AWAY!
THIS ONE IS DEDICATED WITH GREAT AFFECTION, TO MY FAVORITE COMEDY TEAM-- KEITH 'n' ANDY. -- J.M.D.

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
ERIC FEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Danny,

It's been thirteen years. Thirteen years in which the spectre of the Green Goblin seemed well and truly dead. Thirteen years. Anybody around here superstitious?

The cover of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #180 was breathtaking. It'll go down with the covers of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #39 and #122 as memorable "Goblin" covers. The image of the Green Goblin is one of the most powerful representations of evil ever seen in comics. The gaudy colors, the manic grin...truly, he is a foe to rival a certain killer clown that your competition is so proud of. Seeing that cover, I realized that the Goblin's been away for *far* too long.

As for Mr. Buscema...this art is deserving of an award. It manages to convey the complete range of emotions in J.M. DeMatteis's story where words would be redundant.

Y'know what the true mark of a classic is? I'm only half-way through, and already I'm looking forward to the trade paperback reprint.

Rol Hirst
Rushgrove Farm
Holt Head, Slaithwaite
Huddersfield, W. Yorks
HD7 5TY, ENGLAND

Glad you're enjoying it, Rol. And speaking of trade paperbacks... check out the upcoming TORMENT trade paperback, reprinting the first five fabulous issues of Todd McFarlane's SPIDER-MAN, featuring the Lizard and Calypso.

Dear Danny,

After SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #180, it's clear to see that J.M. is one of the best writers Marvel has seen in a *loooong* while. I've been reading J.M.'s work since *Justice League* #1 for DC and enjoying every bit of it.

"The Child Within" is honestly spectacular, (no pun intended), and some of J.M. and Sal's best work ever. I enjoy the way that J.M.is keeping a balance between Vermin and Green Goblin, although I feel Harry Osborn's intriguing life should be the A-1 basis for this mini-series within a series. I hope that this will have as profound an impact on Harry and/or Spidey as "Kraven's Last Hunt" had on both Kraven and the web-slinger. Yet, I expect this from J.M.; he's always chock full of surprises. (Just check out MOON KNIGHT!) And while I do enjoy Dave Michelinie's scripting a lot, J.M. is the modern Spidey writer, if you ask me.

As for Sal Buscema's artwork, "The Child Within" has to be some of his best work ever, far superior to some of his past efforts. In fact, I believe that the best Marvel art comes from *all* of the Spidey titles!!

Well, thank you for your time, and one question: Will there ever be a connection in the SPIDEYS, like your Distinguished Competition has with a certain Man of Steel?

Joey Marchese
116 Emerald Place
Clark, NJ 07066-1413

What man of steel, Joey?

But seriously, folks. Now that we have regular teams on our web-slinging titles, you'll be seeing more intertwining storylines. *Oh*, the tangled yarns we'll be weavin'...

Dear Spectacular Spider-mail,

I just recently read SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #180 and it was, well, spectacular! I've got a few questions, though.

1. Is Harry going to take over as the new, full time Green Goblin?
2. Is Vermin going to become sane?
3. In SSM #174, what was Nick Katzenberg photographing?

Well, that's all for now, folks. Until Spidey is bitten by a radioactive chicken, Make Mine Marvel!!

Isaac Fraser
2224 173 St. SW Calgary, Alta.
Canada

To answer your questions in order, Isaac: 1) Wait and see. 2) Wait and see. 3) Wait and see what happens in the current "Name of the Rose" storyline in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN!

HYPE-O-RAMA

In the adjectiveless SPIDER-MAN book, "Revenge of the Sinister Six" continues...by Erik Larsen, Erik Larsen and Erik Larsen (no relation).

Continuing the heart-stoppin' action, Spider-Man fights Cardiac in AMAZING, and clues to the creation of the Venom-spawn known as Carnage keep comin'. Won't that be *special*?

Specials!! Sure, we've got specials planned for the thirtieth anniversary of Spidey! SPECTACULAR #189 will be a squarebound, 48-page issue with an embossed heavy stock cover! What could be more special than that...?

Well, how about "Fear Itself", the Gerry Conway, Ross Andru and Mike Esposito graphic novel brought to you by the classic SPIDER-MAN team of the 70's!

Whew! Don't miss 'em!

Dear Spectacular Spider-Guys,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN is great--but it lacks one thing: guest heroes!! In AVENGERS right now there is the New Warriors, and in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN there is the Punisher and Darkhawk. How about getting X-Force to come into the book for at least one issue?

Other than that, I love the magazine. So far, J.M. DeMatteis's work in "The Child Within" is excellent. I can't wait to see how he finishes it.

And where's that Letters Page? We haven't seen one since issue #178.

Anyway keep up the good work.

Ian N. Best
11 Browning Trail
Barrie, Ontario
L4N 5A56
Canada

Bob Harras, are you listening?

Dear Web-Zingers,

Great comic--with just one complaint. When in heaven's name are you going to change the corner box art? After some eighty-odd issues, don't you think it's time to put Spidey in a different pose?

Dennis Purves Jr.
105 Center St.
Linden, NJ 07036

Dear Spectacular Spider-Heads,

This is soooo cool! "The Child Within" is one of the best comic storylines that I have ever read. I just started reading SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN and my first issue was #177, the first issue of this storyline, and it was *awesome*! I think that I'm going to keep on collecting this title as my collection gets bigger and bigger.

I just had to say that. So till Uncle Ben gets raised from the dead and becomes Thanos's slave, Make Mine Marvel.

Rob Hult
Wesley Hills, NY 10977

NEXT: Okay, enough merriment for SPEC SPIDEY. Next issue we get serious. *Deadly* serious as the *Vulture* comes to town. Seems the old guy's dying and wants to make peace with his enemies. By killing them. And tops on his list are Spider-Man and Aunt May! Be here in thirty days for *"Funeral Arrangements"*, part one.